

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

YAOUNDE FOR AMBASSADOR SCHAUFELÉ ONLY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO NATO UR CU

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 302573

1. WE CONVEYED REFTEL VIEWS TO HAREL, ACTING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. HAREL SAID MESSAGE COULD NOT HAVE COME AT BETTER TIME BECAUSE QUAI IS NOW IN PROCESS OF BRAINSTORMING THE ANGOLAN PROBLEM TO DETERMINE WHAT, IF ANYTHING, FRANCE CAN DO BILATERALLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE EC-9.

2. HAREL SAID FIRST PRIORITY IS CLEARLY TO MAKE SURE ADDITIONAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES DO NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA, AND THAT OAU SUMMIT AT ADDIS JANUARY 10-12 DOESNOT END UP AS A PRO-MPLA BANDWAGON. HAREL SAID GOF IS NOW GETTING BAD VIBRATIONS FROM FRANCOPHONE MODERATES LIKE HOUPHOUET AND BONGO WHO ARE THINKING ABOUT NOT SHOWING UP AT ADDIS. GOF IS LEANING HARDON THEM TO MAKE SURE THEY ATTEND FOR

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OBVIOUS REASONS. HAREL SAID THERE IS A NAIVE TENDENCY

AMONG FRANCOPHONE MODERATES TO CONSIDER AFRICAN UNITY AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN ANY SINGLE ISSUE SUCH AS ANGOLA. HENCE, THEY WOULD RATHER NOT SHOW UP AT A SUMMIT CONFERENCE IF AFRICA IS GOING TO END UP DEEPLY DIVIDED AS A RESULT.

3. HAREL SAID GOF FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE SOUTH AFRICAN DILEMMA. IF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS REMAIN, THE DIPLOMATIC GAME IS LOST. IF THEY DEPART, THE MILITARY SITUATION CAN BECOME DESPERATE. THE GOF'S ONLY SUGGESTION AT THIS POINT IS THAT WE TRY TO PERSUADE THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO LOWER THEIR PROFILE.

4. HAREL SAID INITIAL FRENCH VIEW ON CURRENT ROUND OF BRAINSTORMING IS THAT EMPHASIS DURING DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH AFRICANS MUST BE ON THE DANGER OF PARTITION IN ANGOLA. QUAI FEELING IS THAT AFRICANS ARE HIGHLY VULNERABLE ON THIS POINT, AND WOULD THINK TWICE BEFORE GRANTING OAU RECOGNITION TO MPLA IF SUCH ACTION WERE EQUATED WITH PROSPECT OF PARTITION. IN SHORT, THIS IS LOGICAL EXTENSION OF REASONING PARAGRAPH FOUR REFTEL WHICH INDICATES THAT OAU RECOGNITION OF MPLA WOULD MAKE NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.

5. HAREL SAID US VIEWS WILL BE INJECTED INTO QUAI'S CURRENT EXERCISE IMMEDIATELY, AND HE WOULD COME BACK TO US WITH ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS AS THE PROCESS CONTINUES.
GAMMON

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